

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A device for activating personal protection means (13, 14)  
wherein the device is configured in such a way that the device activates the personal protection means (13, 14) as a function of a delay between a first signal from an impact sensor system (11) situated in the vehicle front and a second signal from a centrally located acceleration sensor system (25), the first and second signals each identifying an impact.
2. The device as recited in Claim 1,  
wherein the device determines a crash severity as a function of a delay and activates the personal protection means (13, 14) as a function of the crash severity.
3. The device as recited in Claim 1,  
wherein the device starts a deployment algorithm as a function of the first signal.
3. The device as recited in Claim 3,  
wherein the device determines a size of an impact object as a function of the delay and influences the deployment algorithm as a function of the size.
5. The device as recited in Claim 1,  
wherein the device takes the delay into account in determining the site of impact.
6. The device as recited in Claim 1,  
wherein the impact sensor system (11, 20) has a contact sensor system and/or an acceleration sensor system and/or an environment sensor system.

7. The device as recited in Claim 1,  
wherein the impact sensor system is distributed on the  
vehicle front (30).